Import of coal by State Governments for thermal power stations

*389. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken a decision to allow State Governments to import coal, directly, for their thermal power stations;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited has failed to meet the demand for Coal of various thermal power stations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what other alternative steps Government propose to take to meet the demand for coal by various thermal power stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (b) Coal has been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and as such there is no need for any licence/permission from Government of India for its import. Import duty at prevalent rates has to be paid on such imports. However, on requests received from Tamilnadu Electricity Board and Karnataka Power Corporation, Finance Ministry have permitted import of 2 million tonnes and 1 million tonne of coal respectively by these States at concessional import duty.

(c) and (d) According to projections for 1992-93, demand for coal power sector has been estimated at 150 million tonnes (MT). During the period April to November, 1992, coal companies supplied a total of 93.16 M.T. (Provisional—Coal India Ltd. 84.21 M.T. and Singarani Collieries Company Ltd. 8.95 M.T.) which works out to 62.10 per cent of the annual target of coal supplies. Coal companies are confident of meeting the full requirements of the power utilities as per the target and no shortfall in supply of coal to meet the demand of thermal power stations is anticipated.

Malfunctioning of Cantonment Boards

*390. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of complaints and representations received by the Director General of Defence Estates since October 1991 from publicmen, professors and lawyers against malfunctioning of certain Cantonment Boards under the Central Command;

(b) the details of funds released by the Central Government during the last two years to each such Cantonment Board under category 'A' and 'B';

(c) whether some of the boards have been violating the provisions of the Cantonments Land Administration Rules and other connected provisions of the Cantonment Act of 1924;

(d) whether the Central Government have not fixed up the responsibilities for such lapses on individual officers despite serious audit objections; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) There are 29 Cantonments under the Central Command. The Cantonment Boards have been duly constituted under the cantonments Act, 1924, for each of these Cantonments and are functioning. The details of funds released by the Central Government to Class I and